



February  
2015

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Issue Brief

### Agency Highlight:

#### Washington County Public Health

In Washington County the WIC, Maternal Child Health, and The Family Connection home-visitor program coordinate to allow families access to all of these services on the same day in one building - the offices of Washington County Public Health (WCPH). This arrangement is convenient for families and allows personnel the opportunity to coordinate services in order to serve families more efficiently and completely.

One of the services provided by The Family Connection (TFC) is a nest-type program called Parents Place. Catalina Hernandez, a Spanish speaking Parent Educator with TFC, oversees the Parents Place program during WIC hours in order to make that service accessible for Spanish speaking families. While serving in this capacity, Catalina is also able to provide translation services for Spanish speaking families attending WIC. This arrangement worked without a hitch until 2014 when the TFC budget was cut and the program was faced with the prospect of cutting Parents Place and Catalina's hours at the WIC clinic. To resolve this issue, WCPH coordinated with Johnson County Public Health's WIC program to contract payment for Catalina's translation services. Thanks to this arrangement, TFC is able to continue operating Parents Place and translation for Spanish speaking families continues to be offered at both WIC and Parents Place. This allows WCPH and Johnson County WIC to continue to provide the efficient, culturally competent services the families we serve have come to expect, as well as help coordinate services with other local providers, thus improving the health outcomes for our Spanish-speaking clients.

Click here  
to request  
the print  
version!

The Update is a monthly web newsletter published by the Iowa Department of Public Health's Bureau of Family Health. It is posted once a month, and provides useful job resource information for departmental health care professionals, information on training opportunities, intradepartmental reports and meetings, and additional information pertinent to health care professionals.

# Regional Meeting Recaps

Click on the buttons below to see what was discussed at the January MCH Regional Meetings outside of the state agenda. To view the state agenda, click [here](#).

## Legislative Update

**State Legislative Highlight:** Director Clabaugh will be presenting to the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals (TIC) Joint Budget Subcommittee on Thursday, February 19 at 10:00 in room 102. He will be addressing the funding request to develop a comprehensive data system for the Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention. This data system would replace several databases currently used by MCH agencies.

Click [here](#) to see the full legislative update. To join the IDPH Legislative Update Listserve, send a blank email to [join-IDPHLEGUPDATE@lists.ia.gov](mailto:join-IDPHLEGUPDATE@lists.ia.gov).

**Federal Legislative Highlights:** SF 466 is a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to improve the quality, health outcomes, and value of maternity care under the Medicaid and CHIP programs by developing maternity care quality measures and supporting maternity care quality collaboratives.

CHIP Reauthorization: Two bills have been introduced to reauthorizing funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (**hawk-i** is Iowa CHIP) through 2019. [H.R. 919](#) and [S. 522](#). For more information go to <http://ccf.georgetown.edu/chip/future-of-chip/>.

**Measles Resources:** February, the 'month of love,' has been more like the 'month of measles' so far as cities across America grapple with dangerous outbreaks. What do these measles outbreaks mean for pregnant women or women who recently had a baby? What are the risks? [In this month's MotherToBaby Blog](#), "When Measles Strike, It's Not The Happiest Place On Earth For Pregnant Women," teratogen information specialist, Ms. Sonia Alvarado, illustrates what research shows us are the risks associated with this disease. She also talks about the best time to get vaccinated and if the vaccine can be given to breastfeeding women.

Also check out the CDC's resource page on measles for more great information! [www.cdc.gov/measles](http://www.cdc.gov/measles)

## All About Measles

## hawk-i Q & A Call Follow-up

**Announcement:** New FPLs are available and will be effective April 1st for Medicaid and **hawk-i** - Sylvia will be updating materials and sending them out soon so you can have them printed and ready April 1st

**Question:** A family turned in a review for **hawk-i**, then was sent to Medicaid due to income changes. The mother is now unsure whether or not they currently have coverage and whether it is Medicaid or **hawk-i**. Should they have gotten something in the mail, and who can they follow up with to find out what the application status is?



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**Teen Line: 1-800-443-8336 | Healthy Families Line: 1-800-369-2229**



# Calendar at a Glance

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Family Support Workforce Salary Issue Brief

Last summer the MIECHV team received preliminary results from of the Iowa Family Support Workforce Analysis, a 5 year research project contracted through the University of Iowa. A notable issue from the preliminary results shows a significant number of full time Family Support professionals in Iowa who reported earning a less than livable wage; most falling between \$20,000 -30,000 annually. The MIECHV team is working with directors, supervisors, and direct service professionals across the state to develop a comprehensive issue brief to release to policy makers highlighting the following:

- The importance and complexity of the work of Family Support professionals
  - The need for full time professionals to be recognized and supported within agencies by learning a livable wage
  - Exploration of a subsidized base wage for Family Support professionals in Iowa
  - A wide-ranging examination of the challenges and solutions identified for this issue
- For more information on this project please contact [Anne.Plagge@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:Anne.Plagge@idph.iowa.gov)

